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SUBJ: SHCHERBITSKY'S REPORT TO UKRAINIAN CP CONGRESS

1. SUMMARY. SHCHERBITSKY PRAISES BREZHNEV BUT ALSO EMPHASIZES COLLEGIAL NATURE OF POLITBURO DECISION MAKING. HE SUPPORTS DETENTE AND ATTACKS WESTERN OPPONENTS OF RELAXATION OF TENSION FOR INTERFERING IN THE SOVIET UNION'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. THE UKRAINIAN LEADER ALSO CRITICIZES SHELEST AND DEGTYAREV BY NAME. END SUMMARY.

2. AS ONE WOULD EXPECT, UKRAINIAN PARTY FIRST SECRETARY SHCHERBITSKY PRAISED BREZHNEV VERY HIGHLY AT THE UKRAINIAN PARTY CONGRESS FEBRUARY 10 (HIS REPORT IS PUBLISHED IN PRAVDA UKRAINY FEBRUARY 11). LIKE SHEVARDNADZE AND ALIYEV, HE LISTED SEVERAL OF BREZHNEV'S POSITIVE TRAITS -- PROFOUND POLITICAL INSIGHT, COMPREHENSIVE KNOWLEDGE OF LIFE, A SELFLESS SERVANT TO THE CAUSE OF COMMUNISM -- BUT SEEMED CAREFUL NOT TO OVEREMPHASIZE BREZHNEV'S AUTHORITY IN THE POLITBURO. HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE POLITBURO WORKED IN A CONDITION OF "COMPLETE COLLEGIALITY." HE ALSO AVOIDED THE USE OF THE "POLITBURO HEADED BY" FORMULATION, AND HE DID NOT SAY
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THAT THE VARIOUS POLICIES OF THE PARTY WERE DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED ON BREZHNEV'S INITIATIVE AND AUTHORITY.

RATHER, HE NOTED BREZHNEV'S OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION IN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING THE LENINIST POLICY OF THE CC.

3. SHCHERBITSKY CLEARLY ENDORSED DETENTE. HE DESCRIBED CSCE AND THE PEASE PROGRAM AS OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT OF SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY. HE ATTACKED WESTERN OPPONENTS OF RELAXATION WHOM HE ACCUSED OF ATTEMPTING TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE SOVIET UNION AND MENTIONED THAT EMIGRANT UKRAINIAN BOURGEOISE NATIONALIST ORGANIZATIONS AND "ZIONIST CENTERS" WERE IN THE CAMP OF THE ENEMIES OF DETENTE.

4. SHCHERBITSKY CRITICIZED TWO UKRAINIAN LEADERS BY NAME -- FORMER REPUBLIC FIRST SECRETARY SHELEST AND RECENTLY REMOVED DONETSK OBKOM FIRST SECRETARY DEGTYAREV. HE MENTIONED SHELEST'S SERIOUS SHORTCOMINGS IN LEADERSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC PARTY ORGANIZATION AND SCORNFULLY DESCRIBED HIS REMOVAL FROM THE UKRAINIAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE. DEGTYAREV, ACCORDING TO SHCHERBITSKY, DISPLAYED A LACK OF DISCIPLINE IN FULFILLING THE DECISIONS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE CPSU AND THE UKRAINIAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON QUESTIONS OF WORK WITH CADRES. SHCHERBITSKY MADE NO MENTION OF THE RECENTLY DEMOTED SECOND SECRETARY LUTAK. LUTAK, WHO WAS SENT TO THE CHERKASSY OBKOM AS FIRST SECRETARY JUST BEFORE THE CONGRESS, APPARENTLY DID NOT ADDRESS THE CONGRESS AS MANY OTHER OBKOM FIRST SECRETARIES DID.

5. SHCHERBITSKY RECEIVED PROMINENT COVERAGE ON THE "VREMYA" TELEVISION NEWS PROGRAM FEBRUARY 13 AND IN THE CENTRAL PRESS FEBRUARY 14.

6. COMMENT: SHCHERBITSKY APPEARS TO REMAIN CLOSE TO THE BREZHNEV LINE ON FOREIGN POLICY. HIS DESCRIPTION OF BREZHNEV IS VERY FAVORABLE, YET AVOIDS PLACING THE GENERAL SECRETARY ABOVE THE POLITBURO. THIS SEEMS TO BE INTENDED AS A BALANCED, STATESMANLIKE APPROACH -- ONE THAT RECOGNIZES HIS CLOSENESS TO BREZHNEV WHILE IMPLYING THAT HE AND OTHER POLITBURO MEMBERS MAKE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS AS WELL. STOESEL

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